

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Amended claims: 1-5 and added new claims 6-9.

1. (Currently Amended)     A Process ~~Process~~ to prepare a microcrystalline wax and a middle distillate fuel by
  - (a)     hydrocracking/~~hydroisomerising~~ hydroisomerizing a Fischer-Tropsch product, wherein the product has a weight ratio of compounds having at least 60 or more carbon atoms and compounds having at least 30 carbon atoms ~~in the Fischer-Tropsch product is~~ of at least 0.4 and wherein at least 30 wt% of compounds in the Fischer-Tropsch product have at least 30 carbon atoms and wherein the conversion in step (a) is between 25 and 70 wt%,
  - (b)     performing one or more distillate separations on the effluent of step (a) to obtain a middle distillate fuel fraction and a microcrystalline wax having an initial boiling point of between 500 °C and 600 °C.
2. (Currently Amended)     The process of ~~Process according to~~ claim 1, wherein at least 50 wt% of compounds in the Fischer-Tropsch product have at least 30 carbon atoms.
3. (Currently Amended)     The process ~~Process according to any one of the claims 1-2,~~ wherein the microcrystalline wax as obtained has a congealing point of between 95-120 °C and a PEN at 43 °C as determined by IP 376 of more than 0.8 mm.
4. (Currently Amended)     The process of ~~Process according to~~ claim 3, wherein the PEN at 43 °C is more than 1.0 mm.
5. (Currently Amended)     The process ~~Process according to any one of claims 1-4,~~ wherein the wax obtained in step (b) is subjected to an additional de-oiling step to obtain a wax having an oil content of between 0.1 and 2 wt%.
6. (New)     The process of claim 2, wherein the microcrystalline wax as obtained has a congealing point of between 95-120 °C and a PEN at 43 °C as determined by IP 376 of more than 0.8 mm.

7. (New) The process of claim 2, wherein the wax obtained in step (b) is subjected to an additional de-oiling step to obtain a wax having an oil content of between 0.1 and 2 wt%.
8. (New) The process of claim 3, wherein the wax obtained in step (b) is subjected to an additional de-oiling step to obtain a wax having an oil content of between 0.1 and 2 wt%.
9. (New) The process of claim 4, wherein the wax obtained in step (b) is subjected to an additional de-oiling step to obtain a wax having an oil content of between 0.1 and 2 wt%.